IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 12 - No. 45

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 12-No. 45 January, 1979

Editor's Notes:

This is the starting of a new year and a new volume. Little did we dream that when we started this quarterly that it would expand and cover as much of an area of historical value as it seems to have done. We have received letters from all over the United States concerning articles printed about people and happenings of interest.

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In looking through the Alumni list of the Toronto High School we noticed the name of Mabel Jones, "teaching near Yates Center." The school she was teaching happened to be the Editor's home school-Askren School Dist. No. 2, 11 1/2 miles northwest of Yates Center. That was the term of 1918-19. About an average of six pupils going to Dist. 2 that winter. Mabel was 18 years old, not much older than some of the pupils. We always thought she was a fine teacher.

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Our cover picture this issue is the old Mo. Pacific Depot Station at Batesville. The man standing by the station was N.L. Allen, who was the Station at Batesville for several years. This picture was taken in 1911. When built this railroad was known as the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Line.

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Again this year we will use the red mark in a red box following the words Editor's Notes. This system seems to work fairly well. Although we have marked a red X where the subscription had been paid. We will try and not let that happen anymore. We really appreciate it when our readers respond by keeping the subscription paid. Members of the Woodson County Historical Society can send their membership dues at the same time if they would care to.

While the subscriptions and the membership dues go into separate bank accounts, we try to keep the Treasurer informed correctly.

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Published Quarterly By
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$3.00 per year 75 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

Dr. E. J. Kluender, Optometrist of Yates Center, was the featured speaker at the September 26, 1978 meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society. The dinner meeting was held on Tuesday evening at the Woodson House dining room. Fifty-two people attended.

Mrs. Henderson, executive director and Mrs. Keyser, a former director of the Allen County Historical Society were among the guests.

Dr. and Mrs. Kluender showed slides and told about their trip to Guatemala, C. America. Five Optometrists and their wives took part in this project called Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, the past summer. They fitted hundreds of old glasses on the poorer class of people of that country.

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At the November 28 the meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society, the Kluenders showed colored slides, showing the life of the native people and old Indian ruins that have been uncovered.

This meeting was a dinner meeting at the Woodson House, with thirty-eight attending.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday evening, January 23, 1979, at the Woodson House. This will be the election of officers.

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IN MEMORIAM

Roy Steeby **58** **September 24, 1978**

Mr. Steeby was not a native of Woodson County but had married a Woodson County girl, Donna Shaw. He had held a Life Membership for several years.

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George Pyeatte **84** **October 28, 1978**

Mr. Pyeatte had been a member of the Historical Society for a number of years. Although not a native of this county he took an active part in affairs of the county.

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Join and Support The
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00

BARRITT'S HILL —

In 1865, Richard Barritt (sometimes spelled Barrett) homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 34, Twp. 26, Range 14. It seems like Will Clements had squatted on this place, but had not filed on it.

Richard Barrett was 40 years old and his wife Laura was 33 when they came here. They were natives of Ohio. Coming here with them were two sons, Theodore, age 11, and Everett, about nine years old. The log cabin that they moved into was about a quarter mile west of Big Sandy Creek and about the same distance from the Woodson-Wilson county line.

Two more children were born to Richard and Laura Barrett after they moved to the Big Sandy area, John and Lucetta. The log cabin that they moved into had been built on kind of a hill where they could look over quite a bluff to the big Sandy Valley. Down this hill to the north end of a fine level field was built a log corn crib that stood there for years after the log house had been replaced with a frame house.

But it was in this log cabin on April 16, 1867, that a postoffice was established, with Richard Barritt as postmaster. The closest postoffice at that time to this vicinity was at Belmont, around seven or eight miles to northeast. Mail was brought from Belmont once a week to Barritt's Hill. The postoffice of Barritt's Hill has been listed as being in Wilson County. This postoffice served the people along Big Sandy Creek for over three years when it was discontinued on August 15, 1870. The mail was then taken to Coyville for that area.

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Theodore, better known as "Tippy" and his wife Mary had three sons, Bert, Richard and Clark.

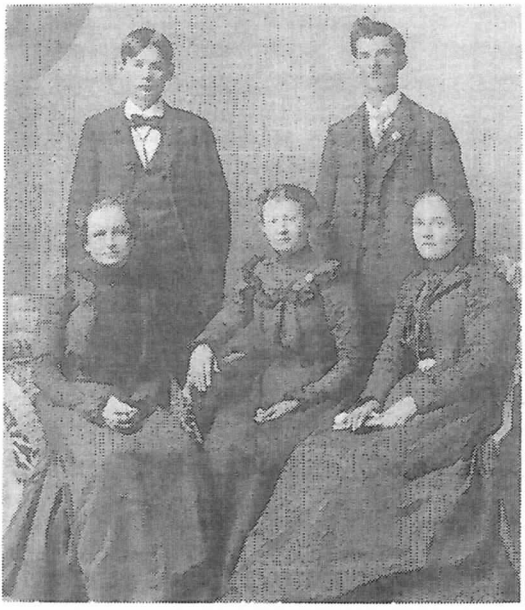
Lucetta married James A. Gregory. They had a daughter, Della Gregory, who spent her last years in Yates Center.

About a mile to the southeast of the Barritt cabin was the log cabin of Josiah Daniel and his wife Elizabeth. This is the cabin that attracted so much attention in 1976, when it was taken down and moved to Yates Center by the Woodson County Museum.

Sometime in the early 1870's both Richard Barritt and Elizabeth Daniel has passed away. Josiah Daniel and Laura Barritt were later married.

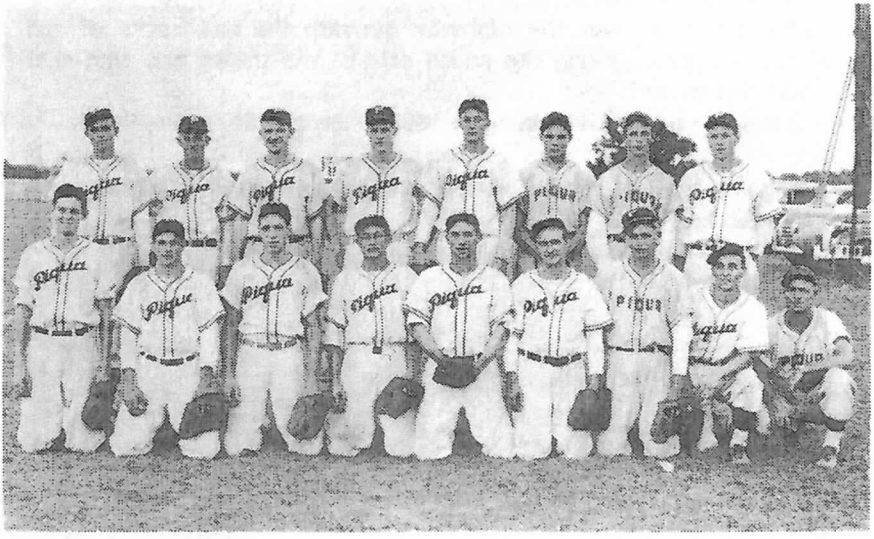
The Theo. Barritt family lived on the forty acres joining on the north of Barritt's Hill.

The Theodore Barritt Family-Theodore and Mary sitting with the boys, Clark, Richard and Bert standing, left to right.



Arthur Daniel, Bert Barritt, Norah Holden, Minnie Gibbs and Anna Brown at a birthday party on Big Sandy at Barritt's Hill.

THE PIQUA, KANSAS BASEBALL TEAM OF 1949-50 —



The players, starting at the left in the backrow: Lloyd Scheibmeir, Tony Kipp, Ed Frischmeyer, Henry Specht, Fred Kipp, Archie Koester, Maurice Riley, Lloyd Specht. Front row: Gerold Sicka, Mike Lair, Archie Specht, Jerian Wille, Virgil Lair, Ralph Diebolt, Henry Kipp, Dick Miller, Carl Diebolt, manager.

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About the time that this picture was taken of the team they had become the Champions in a District Tournament held at Bronson, KS. and entitled them to play in the baseball Congress at Wichita. There were 16 teams entered in the Tournament at Bronson. Piqua defeated Bronson 5 to 3 in the finals. Other teams entered were Arcadia, Hammond, Stark, Iola-Geneva, Burt, Fort Scott, Redfield, Prescott, Lamar, Mo., Richhill, Mo., Chanute, Mound City, Garnett, and Kincaid.

The Piqua team was matched with the Lincoln, KS. Hawks for the first game. With a pitcher from Lamar, MO. pitching for Piqua, they lost 6 to 2. Going back the next week Piqua was matched against the Wichita American Legion, the boys from Piqua won 13 to 0, with Frischmeyer on the mound for Piqua.

The third game of the series for Piqua found then against the Topeka Owls. The Topeka pitcher held the boys from Piqua to just three hits and no runs. Topeka scored 8 runs from the pitching of T. Kipp, F. Kipp and Beaman from Bronson. This was the elimination game for Piqua.

BATESVILLE –

As one goes west on U.S. 54, west out of Yates Center you come to an overpass over the highway beneath the rail tracks of the Missouri Pacific. Along the south side of the tracks is a sign that says "Batesville".

Batesville had its beginning in 1883 when the St. Louis, Ft. Scott, and Wichita railroad was built from Yates Center to Toronto. A siding was built. It is believed that the name derived from the town of Batesville, Ark.

On the south side of the tracks in the northeast corner of Section 33, Twp. 25, Range 15, was the first house in the village. This house belonged to W.A. Snover.

Snover then sold his holdings to Charles Young and Grant Keck, who were brother-in-laws, and formed a partnership of Keck and Young, and shipped hay extensively, having barns in Yates Center, Batesville and Toronto. Also being in the hardware business. They had formed this partnership in 1898. They built a large hay barn on the south side of the railroad tracks at Batesville. About 1900 Keck and Young dissolved this partnership.

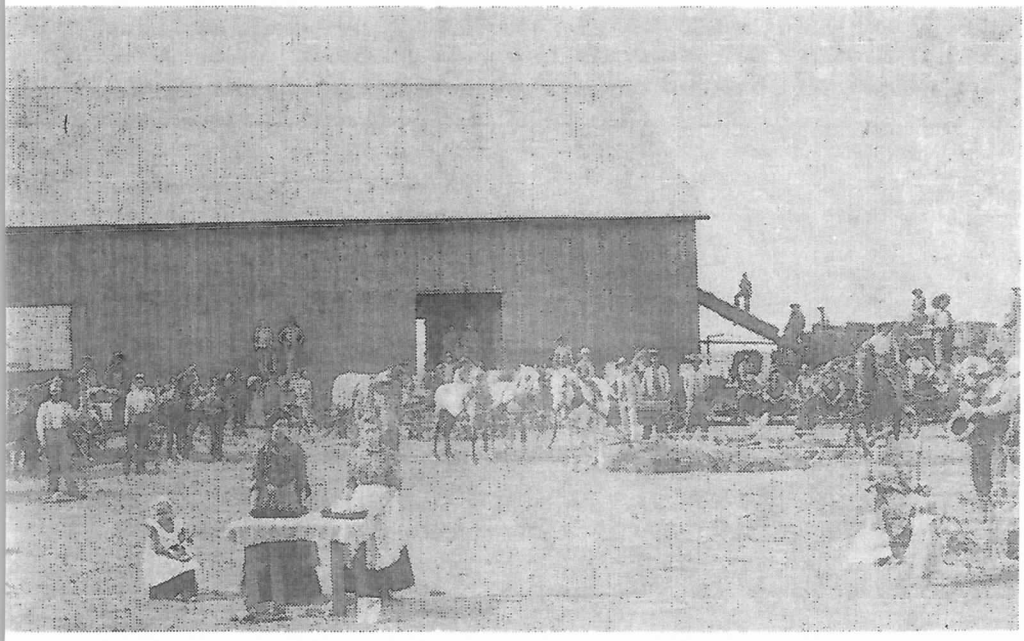
In the meantime Grant Keck had purchased the S.E. quarter of section 28, Twp. 25, Range 15. Here he built a house that is still standing on the hill on the north side of the road and can be seen as one enters either side of the underpass.

In 1904, Grant Keck, built another large barn. Not very long after the building of this barn Grant Keck was killed in the barn. He was moving bales of hay when some bales fell, three of them falling on him breaking his neck.

Grant Keck had spent several years on the farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Keck, where the town of Keck was at for a few years. He had married Miss Mary Baker, October 22, 1891. Their three children were Cecil, born October 23, 1893; Charley, August 2, 1899, and Doris, October 2, 1901.

In the spring of 1905, H.H. Henderson, who was the postmaster at Iola and his son Willis moved to Batesville. A depot was built. N.L. Allen became the depot agent. He lived on his farm on Cedar Creek, and rode a pony to work each day, until a new house was built on an acre of land Allen had purchased from Henderson. He moved the new house in 1906. Henderson then sold a couple of acres of land to W.M. Ogilve who had a farm about two miles to the west. Ogilve then built a house, a store and a barn.

Henderson then built another house on the north side of the road west of where he lived and moved a house from south side of the tracks to the north side for his hired help to live in.



Picture of the large barn and the large hay crews of S. Grant Keck at Batesville.

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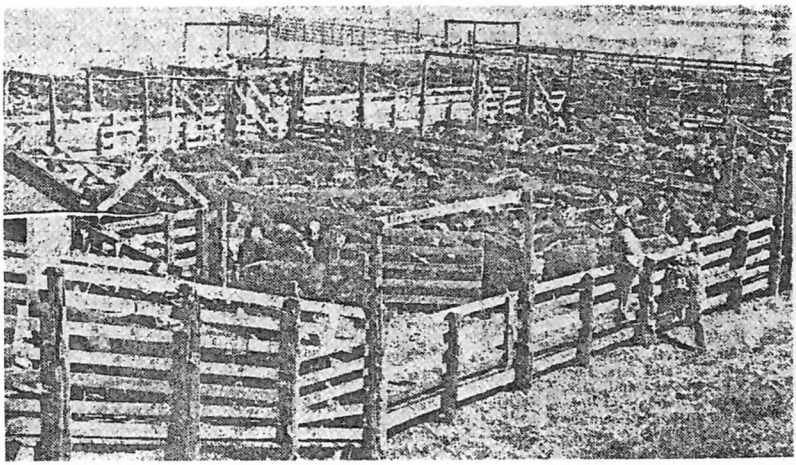
Along about this time Henry Bayer bought an acre of land in the section to the east, and built another hay barn. Later the Kans., Colo. and Pacific Railway Co. bought this acre from Bayer and built the first stockyards. However in the meantime before the stockyards were built Jim Dye, an early day cattleman had a trainload of cattle come to Batesville, but no stockyards to unload them in. The section hands built a place with railroad ties to unload them. Jim Dye whose ranch was just to the east of Virgil brought five riders to hold the cattle as they were unloaded and move them to the pasture. A cold rain had started falling with a chilly northeast wind before the train arrived. The riders could not hold them as they were unloaded and let the cattle scatter over the country side. The cattle came from the warmer climate to the south and were rather thin and the cold rain took a heavy toll of the weaker cattle. The next day the hands starting skinning cattle. They tried burning the carcass but gave that up. They then dug a deep hole in the south east corner of the quarter section, and covered with dirt.

For many years Jim Dye, Ed Kimbell and Asa Miller used these stock yards, shipping thousands of head of cattle from Batesville.



Old Fashioned Round-up: A scene reminescent of the days gone by was enacted when about 40 car loads of cattle were shipped from the Batesville stock yards. The cattle which all came from Kimbell Ranch, were being shipped to the Calfed Cattle Co. of Brawley, Calif., in the Imperial Valley. There they were put on feed for the winter. This photo was taken by Jo McKinney about 195?.

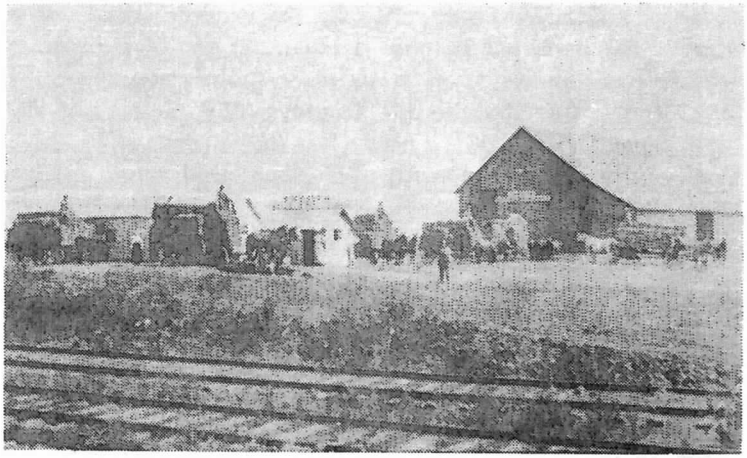
The scales and scale house are to the left of the picture. Several thousand head of cattle were shipped in and out of the Batesville stock yards as they were only a few miles to some of the best grazing native blue stem pastures in the United States.

Evidently deciding to leave the little village, H.H. Henderson sold out to F.H. Bayer, who built a store, a house and a blacksmith shop. Then another house for his son John Bayer. These buildings were all on the south side of the road, between what is now U.S. 54 and the railroad tracks, just to the west of the underpass. The Bayer store seemed to be a general store, selling some farm implements and Auto Fedan hay balers.

F.H. Bayer sold an acre of land to George Reynard to build another hay barn at Batesville.

A United Brethern church group had been organized by Lewis Klick and others to the northwest of the new village and held their meetings in the Cedarvale school house. With the coming of the railroad and Batesville the U.B. group purchased an acre of land to the west of the Bayer store. This church was dedicated in June 1912. For sometime prior to 1940, it was known that U.S. 54 would be relocated and the church would have to be moved. The church was moved to the north side of the highway. In later years as the E.U.B. churches were united with the Methodist Church, the Batesville congregation transferred to the Yates Center Methodist Church and the church building sold. Also by this time all of hay barns, houses and business places were gone except the old Grant Keck house.

At one time Batesville was quite a hay shipping point with the large hay barns and hundreds of acres of bluestem meadows surrounding it. In haying season it was almost a tent city with the many hay crews.



F.H. Bayer Hay Co., Batesville, KS. Large hay barn, scales, six loads of baled hay.

AN IOWA COLONY THAT CAME TO WOODSON CO. - 1898 —

Just before the turn of the century a group of Iowa farmers came to Woodson County and settled in what was known as the Goodale or school dist. no. 61 vicinity.

A real estate man from Ottumwa, Iowa had located land in Woodson County that belonged mostly to D.W. Finney of Neosho Falls, and Mel Hunt of Yates Center. The real estate man went back to Iowa and near Bloomfield, Iowa he held a meeting at a farm home giving a supper and telling the farmers at that meeting what a fine place this was in Sunny Kansas.

As a result, Williams, the real estate man and five Iowa farmers, J.S. Stark, A.W. Baker, J.B. Owsley, W.B. Stark and W.S. Younkin, left for Yates Center. This was in the spring of 1898. These five farmers all lived in a community close together in Iowa and all bought land close together in the same community. They went back to Iowa sold out and made ready to move to Kansas.

The District #61 school house was in the south half of the S.W. 1/4 of section 17, Twp., 24, R. 15. A.W. Baker moved onto the same 80 acres that the school house was on. J.S. Stark was a mile north in S.W. 1/4 of section 8. These two men moved here in October of 1898.

The Farmers Advocate of February 11, 1899, carried this item: "Sometime Sunday afternoon a special train will arrive over the Mo. Pacific conveying from Iowa the families of the men who have located in the county, and their household goods, farm implements and stock. A coach will be attached for the accommodation of the passengers. The party will number between 40 and 50 persons and will be quite a valuable addition to Woodson County population.

It was with this train that the J.B. Owsleys, W.B. Starks and W.S. Younkins came. Owsleys built a house just to the north of the Bakers and W.B. Starks just to the north of Owsleys, both along the west side of section 17. Younkins moved to the farm across the road from the schoolhouse in section 20.

Some of this land cost them around 10 to 12 dollars an acre. However, this was not the sunny Kansas that they were led to believe for in a few days after arriving here the mercury dropped to 25 below zero.

About 1904, the W.G. Rayburn family who were neighbors of this group in Iowa moved to Woodson County, moving on to the farm where the Bakers had first moved to in coming here. They became known as the Rayburn corner for many years later. The No. 61 school house was about a quarter mile to the east.

These two families lived in this locality the longest of any of the group. The Owsleys had no children. They had lost their only child, a boy as an infant. John and Ruby Owsley moved into Yates Center, where they both passed away. Mr. Owsley reaching the age of 94 years.

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William Grant Rayburn, was born December 1, 1863, in a log cabin seven miles north of Bloomfield in Davis Co., Iowa. He was a son of Wesley and Sarah Culp Rayburn. He was the youngest of ten children, all of whom preceded him in death.

On December 17, 1884, Wm. G. Rayburn was united in marriage to Sarah J. Turpin. They were the parents of three children, Otto Ernest, Lola and Lura. The Rayburns like most of the Iowa group were Baptists, but united with the Finney Methodist Church upon moving to that community.

Otto E. Rayburn, was born near Bloomfield, Iowa, May 6, 1891. He was married to Lutie Beatrice Day, September 26, 1925, at Dallas Texas. They had two children, Gloria Juivon, and Billy Joaquin.

Lola was born in 1889, and Lura in 1893, both in Davis County, Iowa.

Lola married Harry Manirold. They were the parents of three daughters, Thelma, who married Forest Weston. Ruby who married Gordon Cooper, and Fern, who married Wayne Finch, and later Frank Searcy.

Lura was married to Jackson Stewart. They had four children, Gerald who married Anna Mae Richards, Velda who married Edward Scheibmeir. Jackson, who married Dorothy Sherwood, and Marvin who married Georgia Stevens.

Jackson Stewart died in 1920. Lura later married Charles J. Peake.

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Wm. G. Rayborn was a farmer and stock raiser his entire life. Although he retired from the farm in 1919, he was called back at the death of his son-in-law Jack Stewart, who passed away in 1920, and spent nine years helping his daughter Lura, rear her family.

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Otto Rayburn grew up in Woodson County, taught a couple terms of school here. In 1916 he went to try to lose himself in the Ozarks. World War I came along so he went to Kansas City, Kansas where he enlisted in what was a part of the 35th Division. A year later he was in the battle of the Argonne and other drives. Otto was discharged at Camp Funston, Kansas, May 9, 1919.

After finishing a term of school at Buffalo, Kansas in 1922, Otto with two young fellows from Buffalo, Joe Spillman and a Boy Scout Albert Miller, again went to the Ozarks, in southern Missouri. These

boys helped Otto to build a rough cabin on his "forty" as he called it. They returned to Kansas, leaving Otto. He "buried" himself in these Ozark hills, where he spent the rest of his life. He became a publisher of Ozark magazines and several books on that country. His Ozark Guide magazine became known very widely, and his writings of that country were of great interest.

Through correspondence with him and an occasional visit to Eureka Springs, Ark. where the Rayburns lived the editor of "In The Beginning," became fairly well aquainted with Otto Rayburn. In fact he was quite an inspiration to the writer in trying to put out a quarterly like we do. Otto at one time suggested that we try to put out a historical quarterly, although his idea was to cover two or three counties.

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The picture on the opposite page is a hay crew taken in the late summer of 1904. The majority of the group are the folks from Iowa. This hay crew was finishing up the haying for that season and in celebration the women folks brought a surprise basket dinner to the hay field.

The baler was one of those foot-feed, horse-powered hay presses, that was rather dangerous for the man doing the stomping of the hay into the hay chamber.

People identified in the picture are, from extreme left of the picture: John Allen, A.W. Baker, John B. Owsley, Ernest Younkin. By the press, George W. Williams, Cecil Butler and Will Reep. Three men sitting on bales, unknown, Wm. G. Rayburn, Unknown. Small boy on top of bales is Floyd Younkins, girl in front of him, Lura Rayburn, other small girl to the right unknown. Next girl was Wilda Stark, next 3 unknown, women seated, Mrs. Stark, Mrs. Ruby Owsley, unknown, unknown, Mrs. W. G. Rayburn, Mrs. John Allen.

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Several grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Rayburn live in the Yates Center area, but of the other families of this colony that came here eighty years ago, all are gone from the county.

CHARLES CAMERON - FIRST COMMISSIONED COUNTY OFFICIAL FOR WOODSON COUNTY —

It was sometime in 1857, that the Charles Cameron family arrived at the log cabin settlement of Belmont. Charles Cameron was 41 years old, his wife Callia was 29, sons Frank was 5, and twins Willie and Wallie were 3 years old. Cameron evidently built a log cabin to match the others in the pioneer settlement, that had sprung up there early that year.

It was on December 19, 1857, that Charles Cameron of Belmont and John Woolman of northwest of Neosho Falls each received commissions to establish voting precincts, and appoint three judges for an election to be held on the 4th day of January, 1858. However, for some reason this election seemed to be held on the 22nd day of March, 1858. At this election Charles Cameron was elected as Clerk of Probate Court. John Woolman was elected as Probate Judge.

On February 2, 1858, before the election Chas. Cameron, residing at Belmont received a commission issued to him by Frank Stanton, acting governor, Kansas Territory, to the office of Notary Public.

The Board of County supervisors of Woodson County, Kansas Territory, met at Neosho Falls, May 22nd A.D. 1858, Board was all present: I.W. Dow, chairman, G. J. Cavin and Williams, organized by appointing Charles Cameron as Clerk of said Board. Cameron was Clerk of the Board when layed off, designated and named the five townships for Woodson County, and the election places for an election. The townships were Neosho Falls, Liberty, Owl Creek, Belmont and Verdigris.

The third meeting of the Board of Supervisors met at Belmont, with different supervisors on October 12, 1858. Board was organized by electing L.C. Thompson of Verdigris, as chairman. Other members were John M. Campbell, Owl Creek, and R. Pearsoll from Belmont, J.D. Carney was Dept. Clerk at Belmont meetings.

At the meeting of this Board at Belmont, Nov. 8, 1858 Pearsoll and Thompson were present. No quorum present so board adjourned to meet at Belmont the first Monday, in December. It was evident that no one was present from Neosho Falls. The meeting at Belmont did not materialize.

The next two meetings were held at Neosho Falls, Dec. 20 and Dec. 27. No quorum was present at these meetings. The names of I.W. Dow and H. Grosbeck were signed at this meeting. No more meetings of the Board was held until April 5, 1859, at Neosho Falls.

The name of Charles Cameron appeared on two more meetings of the Board, but were signed by S.E. Hoffman, Deputy Clerk.

Hoffman was appointed as clerk March 20, 1860. April 5, 1859 was the last time that Cameron was clerk for the county supervisors. At this meeting that Cameron presented his bill for his services in the election proceedings. His was account number 5. The first four were to J.W. Lowe, J.L. Downing, N.S. Goss, H.J. Gregory. Cameron's bill was for $40.50, but for some reasons this bill was not presented for payment at the time.

The first post office was established at Belmont on September 21, 1857, with the first postmaster as John W. Lowe. On January 14, 1858, less than four months later, Charles Cameron was appointed as postmaster, of Belmont. Another four months the office was changed back to John W. Lowe, May 15, 1858.

Whether Cameron decided to quit the political field, and go to farming, or left the county we do not know, but we do not find his name until April 7, 1868, when he appeared before the County Supervisors or by that time they were known as Commissioners, and presented his voucher for the $40.50.

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ODDS and ENDS FROM THE FARMERS ADVOCATE — YATES CENTER

August 13, 1897-Maple Grove and Stonepile will play the world's great game of ball on the grounds of lower Cherry Creek, north of Mr. C. Peters, on Saturday, August 14, at 2 p.m. sharp. Ice cold lemonade will be served to quench the well known unbearable thirst of ball players at 5 cents a pint. Committee.

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We had the pleasure last Monday of witnessing the Deering Corn Harvester on Mr. Stockebrand's farm northeast of town. It cuts and binds the corn and does an excellent work and the draft was light on the team. Mr. Stockebrand will put up about 100 acres with this machine.

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The Citizens State Bank, (Southwest corner square) opened for business in August, 1897. The first name for this bank was the State Savings Bank. Officers are President J.H. Gunby; Vice Pres. J.K. Demoss, Cashier, E.A. Runyun; Assist. Cashier, J.H. Gunby.

(J.H. Gunby was Captain of the Militia organized at Belmont during the Civil War.)

HISTORY OF THE NEOSHO FALLS SCHOOL -Dist. No. 8 —

The town of Neosho Falls was founded in the year of 1857. The following summer, 1858 the first school was held and taught by Miss Emma Coulter. Not much was told about her only that she was "pretty and stylish and well liked". Some writers give this as the first school in Woodson County, but "Andreas History of Kansas", gives the first school held in the county as along the Verdigris River. That school was held in a log building along what is now the west edge of Toronto, although Toronto was not started until about ten years later.

In the fall of 1858, Ebenezer H. Curtis opened a private school in his home in Neosho Falls. Some of the pupils attending this school were Helen B. McConnell (Mrs. D.W. Finney); Ada Crane (Mrs. W.J. Haughawout), Carrie Brengle Williams and E.B. Moore.

In 1860 and '61 George Wait taught a private school in a log cabin that belonged to Jack Veteta, one block east of where the old Falls House stood. George Wait had come to Kansas with a colony from New York in 1857, and helped establish the town of Geneva, but evidently moving to Neosho Falls soon after.

Mrs. Brengle taught a school in her home in 1862. She was the mother of the Carrie Williams mentioned above. There were 25 pupils attending this school.

In 1863, County Supt. E.J. Brown began the organization of the schools into districts. Up until this time the schools that were organized were numbered consectively in each township usch as number one, Owl Creek township, organized January 17th, 1863, No. one Neosho Falls township and No. one Belmont township both on January 15th that year. No. one Liberty township on January 24th and No. one Toronto township April 25th in the same year.

Thomas Holland taught the first public school in Neosho Falls. About this time lumber was obtained for a new school house. The story was told that the greater portion of it was "jayhawked" by a wagon maker who had a shop nearby. At that time there was a small building nearby that was used as a cooper shop. Early in the days of the Civil War the proprietor left the town and later word came that he had joined the Rebel army and was killed in battle. No relatives appeared to claim his property, and the cooper shop was appropriated and was used as a school house.

The first school house built in Neosho Falls was in 1869. A second room was added in 1871.

In 1870, the teacher was I.S. Jones. In 1871 Miss Edwards taught the higher grades and Miss Jennie Holloway the lower grades. Miss Holloway taught in the new school house and Miss Edwards in the Clarke Hall, over the Clarke store. (In later years it was the Opra House over Wolford's store.) Among the pupils of the upper grades were: George Morris, L.N.B. Anderson, Ryland Scotland, Alice and Flora Hogueland, Dora, Mary and Maude Jones, Florence Snow and Elizabeth Lynn.

However, going back to the year 1865, when the County Supt. was Wm. B. Stines, a new law was passed to renumber the schools in consecutive order in the county instead of by township's. There was quite a rivalry among the various districts to be "Number One." Neosho Falls, especially pushed for that claim. However, Mr. Stines put the first two numbers on school in Liberty township. Number one went to what was known at that time as the Whitney and later as the Byron school, and No. 2 was given to Mr. Stines' home school, later known as the Askren School. For some unknown reason Neosho Falls was given No. 8

In 1882 a Mr. McBride was the teacher. This same year the district purchased the old M.K. & T. Land office building at a cost of $1,000. In 1873-M.C. Carrenger; 1874, A.F. Palmer; 1875, N. Powell; 1876, J.R. Sharp; 1877, Geo. Inge; 1878, J.J. McBride, who also organized the first high school.

The first high school was held in the old land office until 1900 when it was abandoned for school purposes. A "New school house was finished in 1900. It was built of brick and contained six rooms."

In 1879, L. Townley was teacher. 1880, J.M. Spangler, 1881 and '82, T.J. Bradley with three assistants.

In 1885 the first real high school was established and the first class to graduate was in 1889. Two young men, Truman Adams and Walter Goodrich were the only graduates. The principal was A.J. Jones. In 1890 there were nine graduates, among them were, Alice Woodward, Minnie Bishop, Guy McKinley and Warren Finney. A.J. Jones, principal.

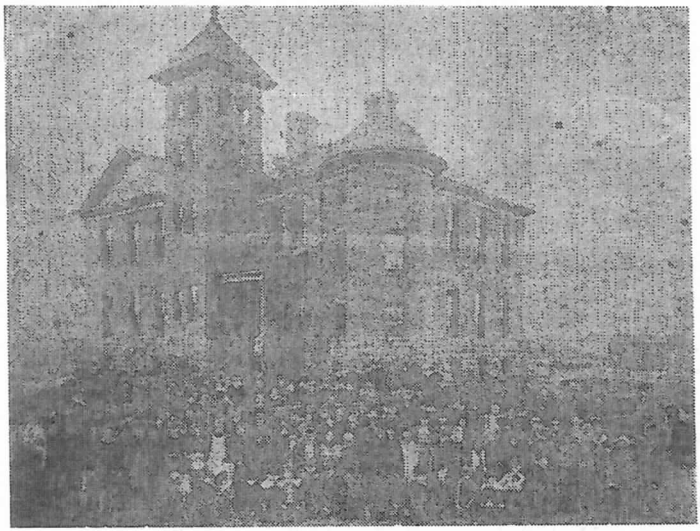
In 1891 there were three graduates, Alice Shewell, Calvin Lieurance and George Smith. Principal A. Newton. In 1892 the following were graduates, Ora Jackson, May Wentling, Lydia Sain, Sudie Curd, Lulu Gwinn, Roy McKinley, and Edward Stratton. Principal J.W.D. Anderson.

In 1893 there were no graduates. In 1894 there were three; Jane Sain, Elsie Stratton and Gettie Wilson. The Principal was B.E. Brown.

Next three years, E.C. Parker was principal with the following graduates; 1895, Anna and Sherrill Parsons, Mary Goodrich and Martha Patterson. 1896-Glenn Finney, Myrtle Trout, Alice Herdman, Josephine Jackson and Florence Wix. 1897, Lulu Beem, Martha Herdman, Belle Gray, Edward Lieurance, Millie Curtis.

In 1898 among the graduates were: Jessie Berry, Roy Tyler, Jesse Adams, Ora Grubbs, Emma Dysert, Maude Moore and Walter Diver. Principal, E.J. Dumond.

In 1899-Effie Curd, Nell Moore, Sadis Wright, Jesse Young and Fannie Hamold. Mr. Cunningham, principal as he was the next year 1900. Graduates were Nell Dysert, Margaret Leedy, Florence Mitchell, Clifford Harms, and Tressa Herdman.



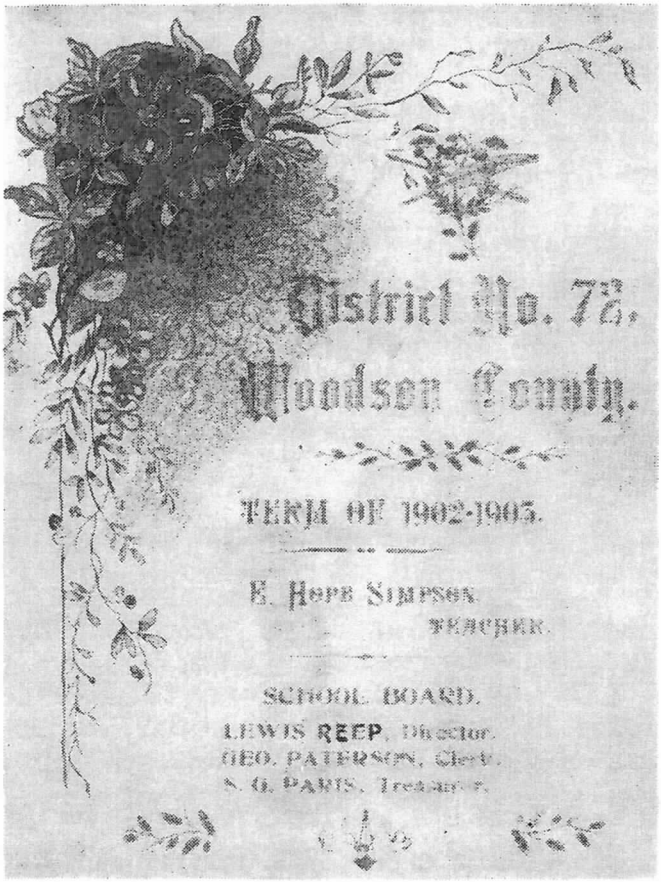
This was the 'new' school house at Neosho Falls as it appeared in 1900. In later years it was remodeled into the one as appears now.

In the next issue we will attempt to bring some of the principal's and teachers up to date. Also we will try and tell about the important part the school building had during the big flood of 1951.

KNOWLEDGE HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72 —

One of the last of the rural school districts of Woodson County was numbered 72, but was given the name of Knowledge Hill. The first term of school held in this district was in the fall of 1901, with Miss Anna Gepharte as the teacher. This school house was built on top of a hill covered with blackjack oak, in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 2, Twp. 25, Range 14, six miles west and a mile north of Yates Center.

While this school had a fairly large number of pupils for several years, it had a short life considering most of the schools of the county. Before this school house was built the pupils in the new district had been going to the Cope, Dist. 62 and to Bayless, Dist. 55.



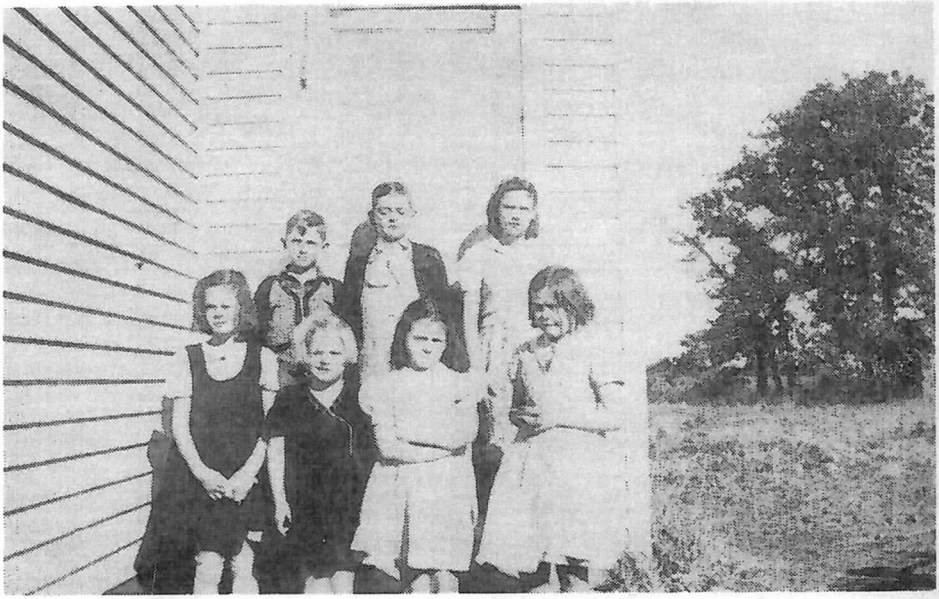
At the end of the term of 1902-1903, a souvenir given to the pupils by the teacher, Hope Simpson. This was the second term at Dist. 72. The school board listed was no doubt the first board elected in that

district. The Director, Lewis Reep, lived a mile to the north of the new school house. George Patterson lived about a mile to the east, and S.G. Paris lived about a mile to the west of the school house.

* * * * *

Teachers at Knowledge Hill during the thirty years of its existance are: Anna Gepharte, Hope Simpson, '02-'03; Edna Wharton, '04; Four years records missing. Ethel Manchester, '09; Elma Davidson, '10; Esther Johnson, '11; Leah Phillips, '12; Archadean Whittaker, '15; Helen Scott, '13; Ione Mason, '16; 1917, no school; Cecile Mentzer, '18; Bertha Fuhlhage, '19; Flossie Willis, '20; Katherine Lewis, '21; Pearl Mentzer, '23, '24, '25; Kathryn Bell, '26-27; Katherine Lewis, '28, '29, '30, '31.

Katherine Lewis, who later married William McLaughlin, taught ten of the thirty years of school at Knowledge Hill. At the end of the 1931-32 school term, school was discontinued and the few pupils were sent to the Cope Dist. 62 school. Here at the Cope School, Katherine Lewis McLaughlin taught 13 terms of school, ten of these after Dist. 72 was discontinued.



Pupils of Knowledge Cope School, 1940-1941-Katherine Lewis McLaughlin, teacher. Back row, George Norris, Myron Weide, Frances Hougland. Front row, Fern Hougland, Edna Hougland, Ruthann Mentzer, Mae Hougland.

TORONTO HIGH SCHOOL TATTLER-April 12, 1919 —

(This copy that we have access to gives the alumni of the Toronto High School for several years, starting with class of 1891.)

Class of 1891, E.E. Kelley Supt.-Harry Mann, Will Mann, Frank Armstrong, Ernest Kellogg, Erwin Kellogg, Harry Beasley, Kitty Byington, Roscoe Miller.

Class of 1897, E.E. Kelley Supt.-F.B. Frakes, Ada (Spaulding) Frakes, Alvin P. Owen, Arthur Jones, E.J. Truman, R. Sample, Jr.

Class of 1899, E.E. Kelley, Supt.-James A. Webb, Lillian (McMahon) Frakes, Charles E. Shane, Grace (Swisher) Daniel, Margaret Swisher, Ella (Coburn) Lester, Pauline (Kelley) Siewert, Earl Weekly.

Class of 1900, A.M. Kannard Supt.-Glenn Kellogg, Della (Dutton) Hill.

Class of 1901, A.M. Kannard Supt.-Lenna (Emerson) Osborn, Mary Richmond, Harry Webb.

Class of 1902, A.M. Kannard Supt.-Ethel (Barker) Engle, Abbie (Kellogg) Mann, Myrtle (Halsey) Renninger, Ralph Brownson, Mabel (Scott) Ritter, Katie (Daub) Thompson, Pearl (Cooper) Emmett, Ruby (Cooper) Van Bibber.

Class of 1903, A.M. Kannard Supt.-Alfred M. Sample, Nellie (Baker) Sample, Nina (Starret) Hull, Will E. Pracht, Will Durnburger, Katie (Durnburger) Scott, Georgia (Swisher) Anderson.

Class of 1905, Supt. name not legible.-Maude Barker, Ollie (Sherman) Noble, Margaret (Richmond) Miller, Ed Williams.

Class of 1906, Wolf Supt.-Hal Wilburforce Sherman, Gertrude (Jenson) Sherman, wife of above.

Class of 1907, H.O. Etter, Supt.-Gertrude Metsker King, Hazel Mathias Carter, Eugene Kelley, Irma Cornette Kelley, Audra Butler Close, Alfred Popkess, Mattie Jones Steele, Cora McHaley Martin.

Class of 1908, F.C. Walters Supt.-Gertrude Haskins James, Darrell Irwin, Maude Owens Walters, wife of the Supt., Cynthia Williams Claiborne, Howard Cannon, LaVerne Ambrose, Homer Hedges, Fern Vaughn.

Class of 1909, F.C. Walters Supt.-Mary Alvis Snare, Loretta Alvis, Jessie Schaaf Studer, Mamie Haskins James, John Floyd Thompson, Ruth McLain.

Class of 1910, Geo. E. Harder, Supt.- Alma Kaltenback.

Class of 1913, W.C. Perry, Supt.-Cora Elvin, 4 year course.

Class of 1914. W.C. Perry Supt.-William Elvin, died Oct. 7, 1918, Ft. Riley. Member Co. D. Machine Gun Battalion.

Class of 1915, W.C. Perry Supt.-Helen Cable, Lee Cooper, Sadie Curtis, Jay Curtis, sailor on U.S.S. Maui. Josie (Dean), Howard Kaltenback, Myrtle Knibbs, Pearl (Reid) Bornhauser.

Class of 1916, Wm. A. Richard Supt.-Effie Adkins, Ethel (Barker) Engle, Maude Barker, James Gustin, U.S. Navy, Hazel Lovett, Pauline Prichard, Vivene (Schaaf) Black Ethel Wallace.

Class of 1917, W.A. Richards Supt.-Ruth (Adkins) Schaaf, Gladys Baker, Rebecca Bolton, Farr Brown, John Gilchrist, Merle Konold, John Martin, Corporal in Co. L. 137th Infantry, A.E.F., Fern Starrett, Minnie Rogers, Archie Kerr, U.S. Navy.

Class of 1918-Roy Durham, Edwin Briley, Faye Handcock, Mabel Jones, Alice Kaltenback, Fern Wallace, Gladys Knibbs, Martin Konold, Ben Kitterman, Leila Kerr, Raoul McLaughlin, Kenneth McLaughlin, Lois Schaaf, Winnie Steele, Emmet Taylor, Roy Wilhite, Everett Fisher, Donald Byington, Ruth Jamison, Ethel Willaby.

Class of 1919-James Steele, Helen Durham, Ellen Gentry, Katherine Dickerson, Brooksie Wilhite, Alice Wilhite, Margaret Popkess.

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The Toronto High School Tattler-Published by the Junior Class...Charles Sowder, Editor; Isabelle Miller, Asst. Editor; Katherine Kelley, Business Manager; Irene Horsman, Assist. Bus. Manager; John Durham, foreman; Reporters, Lyla Hitchcox, Janice Morrison, Leila Tubbs, Iva Scott, Elsie Adkins.

* * * * *

High School Commencement Week Calendar, 1919. Baccalaureate sermon, preached by Rev. J.L. Thompson at the Presbyterian Church, Sunday, May 4th, 11:00 a.m.

High school commencement, Friday, May 9th. Address given by Margaret Hill McCarter.

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Some of the local news in this issue of the Tattler. "Supt. W.C. Perry has been giving lectures on almost any subject he thinks of. He draws his morals from ants, spiders, and ancient philosophers."

"Number of pupils enrolled in high school is as follows: Freshmen, 14; Sophomores, 11; Juniors, 10; Seniors, 7. Total 42. This plus the enrollment in the grades makes a total 196 in the entire school."

"The primary grade, Miss Lovett teacher, has 45 pupils; the second and third grades taught by Miss Huff, has 43 enrolled. The 4th and 5th grades, Miss Webb, teacher, has the largest enrollment in the school.

Miss Effie Adkins, teacher of the 7th and 8th grades has 39 pupils enrolled. Mr. Fairbrothers room, the eighth grade, having only 27 enrolled.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch, J.W. & J. Richards
Herring Hardware & Supply
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Woody's Cafe
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank-Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, Mo.
Rex Butler, Nashville, Tenn.